

NATIONAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT POLICY BOARD
FEDERAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1984 - 1985

I. PREFACE

- o Reports such as this are required by Congress pursuant to the National Narcotics Act (Chapter XIII of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984) every six months. The Attorney General is responsible for producing the report.
- o Recognizing that the national drug problem is essentially a matter of cutting drug supply and cutting drug demand, nevertheless, the National Drug Enforcement Policy Board (NDEPB) focuses almost exclusively on law enforcement efforts to reduce the supply of drugs in the United States.
- o This report also contains the 1985 accomplishments of the Organized Crime Law Enforcement Task Force.
- o There has been a significant expansion in enforcement efforts to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in the United States in recent years.
- o Of the approximately \$1.7 billion authorized for drug abuse functions in fiscal year 1985 over \$1.4 billion



was spent on domestic and international supply reduction programs.

- o All the major players have increased resources and emphasis on drug issue.
- o The overall NDEPB strategy is:
 - Identify, investigate, prosecute and incarcerate members of drug trafficking organizations; immobilize their criminal enterprises through seizure of their drugs and forfeiture of their drug-derived assets.
 - Intercept and seize drugs (contraband en route to or at the borders of the United States).
 - Destroy illegal drugs at their source through eradication and the seizure of clandestine laboratories and precursor chemicals.
 - Apply control measures to stop production and distribution of lethal analogs and the diversion of legitimately produced drugs into the illegal market.
- o The National Drug Enforcement Policy Board (NDEPB) was created by the National Narcotics Act of 1984 to improve policy development and cooperation among the various federal agencies...by:

- Reviewing, evaluating, and developing United States government policy, strategy and resources with respect to drug law enforcement efforts, including budgetary priorities and a national and international drug law enforcement strategy;
 - Facilitating coordination of all United States government efforts to halt national and international trafficking in illegal drugs; and
 - Coordinating the collection and evaluation of information necessary to implement United States policy with respect to drug law enforcement.
- o Starting in 1986, both the Policy Board and the Coordination Group will meet monthly.

I. THE DRUG PROBLEM IN 1985

- o Drug trafficking costs society billions of dollars in reduced productivity, health care and other costs.
- o Drug trafficking trends demonstrate the heightened sophistication of trafficking organizations, and their increased reliance on violence and corruption.
- o Cocaine continues to pose the most serious drug abuse problem because of its widespread use, increasing availability and significant health consequences. Estimates are that 4.2 million Americans use cocaine

at least once per month. The price of cocaine in the United States has dropped in 1985. Coca cultivation takes place primarily in Peru and Bolivia, with lesser cultivation occurring in Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil. An estimated 75 percent of cocaine available in the United States originates in Colombia.

- o Heroin involves approximately one-half million addicts in the United States. Deaths from heroin use are up. The primary sources of heroin available in the United States are southwest Asia (51 percent), Mexico (32 percent) and Southeast Asia (17 percent).
- o Marijuana is most widely used illicit drug. Data say that 20 million Americans use marijuana at least once a month. Colombia continues to be major supplier of marijuana although Mexico could supplant Colombia as the major marijuana source in 1986.
- o The abuse of synthetic drugs may be the greatest challenge for the future.
- o The overall number of drug users appears to be stabilizing, even at a time when drugs are readily available.
- o Strong drug law enforcement and anti-drug efforts in other countries are disrupting established drug supply mechanisms.

- o Law enforcement officials are today better able to detect and access the changes in the drug traffic and to take effective actions before new operations are established.

II. INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

- o Federal drug investigations, arrests, prosecutions, seizures, and forfeitures of drug-purchased property grew dramatically in fiscal years 1984 and 1985.
- o DEA: Lead agency for drug investigations, enforces Title 21 of the US Code, the Controlled Substances Act.
- o FBI: Since January 1982, the FBI has had concurrent jurisdiction with DEA.
- o Techniques Used: Electronic surveillance, witness immunity and financial investigations. There has been an increase in Title III investigations in recent years. These call for electronic surveillance.
- o During FY 1985, 64 percent of all matters under investigation in the FBI's Organized Crime Corruption Program were drug related.
- o Four drugs dominate clandestine laboratory activity: methamphetamine, phencyclidine (PCP), amphetamine, and cocaine.
- o The number of persons arrested for drugs in recent years has gone up and so has the number of convictions and number imprisoned. Both DEA and FBI report this.

- o There is a trend toward guilty pleas in drug cases.
- o The United States Marshall Service (USMS) has developed a program called Fugitive Investigative Strike Team (FIST). FIST seeks to identify, locate, and arrest fugitive felons. To date, Marshals have arrested more than 11,000 fugitive felons from all the jurisdictions participating and have returned them to incarceration. Of these arrests, 20 percent have drug involvement.
- o The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces
 - Established by the President in October 1982.
 - There are 13 regions for OCDETF.
 - Goal of OCDETF Programs: Identify, investigate, and prosecute members of high-level drug trafficking enterprises and to destroy the operations.

III. INTERDICTION

- o Primary Objective: Reduce availability of illegal drugs by limiting flow into U.S., through seizures and deterrence of potential drug smugglers.
- o 96,000 mile US coastline, including long and desolate stretches of land border with Mexico and Canada, creates serious problems.

- o Primary agencies involved in interdiction: Customs Services and the Coast Guard. Interdiction is largely a Federal responsibility.
- o Customs and Coast Guard have joint jurisdiction within the 12-mile limit at sea.
- o Intelligence Support
 - Executive Order 12333, issued in 1981, authorizes the Intelligence Community to target the foreign aspects of drug trafficking.
- o The National Narcotics Border Interdiction System (NNBIS)
 - Has spearheaded some successful joint exercises.
 - Is considered an "added layer" by many.
 - Established in early 1983, NNBIS is a management system, not an agency
 - NNBIS has seven regional offices.
- o Interdiction Objectives
 - Seize drugs and make arrests
 - Deny traditional routes
 - Apply visible pressure
- o In 1984, 96 percent of the foreign supply of marijuana destined for the United States originated in Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, and Belize. All of the cocaine destined for the U.S. originated in South America.
- o In addition to the direct contribution of tactical intelligence in making seizures, strategic

intelligence is used to identify emerging source countries, staging areas, and transshipment points, and to signal shifting trafficking patterns and modal changes.

- o Most drug seizures in FY 1985 by the U.S. Customs Service were "cold hit" seizures.
- o Significant and recent operations for interdiction:
 - WAGONWHEEL (Nov/Dec 1984) - Coast Guard's maritime portion of HAT TRICK
 - HAT TRICK (Nov/Dec 1984) - NNBIS
 - HAT TRICK II (Feb/Mar 1986) - NNBIS
 - BLUE LIGHTNING (Apr 1985) - NNBIS
- o The ability of interdiction forces to essentially bottle up Colombia's 1984 marijuana crop, allowing in-country forces to confiscate or destroy it, was probably the most noteworthy interdiction success in recent years.

IV. INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

- o This phase is concerned with destroying drugs at their source. Efforts include source country crop control, international drug law enforcement, and drug abuse prevention and education programs run in the foreign countries.

- o The year 1985 was productive for program expansion and internationalization.
- o Other governments are beginning to realize that drug trafficking is a threat to their national security and their economic and social well being.
- o Economic summit in May 1985 addressed drug problem, Canada, FRG, France, Italy, Japan, UK and USA all pledged cooperation.
- o In 1985 drug eradication programs were conducted in 14 countries compared with two in 1981.
- o Still, drug production remains high. In some areas trafficking groups are so powerful that they challenge the government for control and pose a national security threat.
- o Crop Control - Cannabis
 - 1985 was the most effective year to date in reducing cannabis cultivation in countries that supply US market.
 - Colombia, the principal source of marijuana imports into US in recent years, cut marijuana production by 67 percent in 1985.
 - Jamaica and Panama also have started serious cannabis eradication; so has Belize.
 - In Thailand and especially Mexico, the cultivation of Cannabis is up.

o Crop Control - Coca

- Results more modest than in case of cannabis
- Bolivia and Peru, the world's principal sources of coca began initial coca eradication only as 1985 ended.
- Colombia appears to be serious about coca eradication.
- Ecuador and Brazil are doing something but not enough.

o Crop Control - Opium

- Encouraging situation on reduction, particularly in Asia.
- Thailand: Government plans major effort in 1986 to move against opium.
- Pakistan: An important grower of opium and processor of morphine base and heroin.
- Mexico: Opium production increased in 1984 and 1985. Inefficiency and corruption are the key problems in Mexico.

o The Thrush aircraft has improved eradication efforts.

o "Golden Triangle" Aspects

- Production of morphine and heroin inside Thailand is virtually stamped out.
- Royal Thai Army has continued operation against the Shan United Army.

- o India: Heroin moves through India from Pakistan and Burma to Europe and the United States; precursor chemicals go through India enroute to Burma.
- o Pakistan: Despite declining opium production, Pakistan remains the major producer of heroin exported to the United States.
- o Turkey: An important transit country for morphine base and heroin from Near East to Europe or the United States. Three/four tons of morphine base and heroin transit the country each year.
- o Colombia: Government assigns drug enforcement a "top priority". Very few prosecutions for drug trafficking however.
- o Peru: Started to improve under President Alan Garcia in mid-1985 in counternarcotics matters.
- o Bolivia: Has just started building an enforcement program against drugs.
- o Brazil: The problem is seen as serious by the local government.
- o Venezuela: President Lusinchi is waging a campaign against precursor chemicals.
- o Mexico: Murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena marked a turning point in US/Mexico relations on drugs.
- o Jamaica: Concerned with trafficking by air.

- o Panama: Performance on interdiction was impressive last year.

V. DOMESTIC CANNIBIS ERADICATION

- o 12 percent of marijuana available in the United States was grown domestically.
- o On 26 August 1985 an environmental impact statement relating to cannabis eradication was released. It is sufficiently liberal to support the efforts of the law enforcement agencies.

VI. LICIT DRUG CONTROL

- o The effort here is to prevent:
 - Diversion of legitimately produced drugs into the illicit market.
 - Production of controlled substance analogs.
 - Distribution of drug precursors for manufacture of illicit drugs.
- o The clandestine production of controlled substance analogs, known as "designer drugs", delivers a major threat.
 - The fentanyl analogs, sold as "synthetic heroin", are especially dangerous.

VII. INTELLIGENCE PROGRAMS

- o A healthy relationship currently exists between the intelilgence and law enforcement communities.